

UNCLASSIFIED

E184

ACTION WHA-00

RELEASED IN PART
B1, 1.4(D), 1.4(B)

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	CIAE-00	INL-00	DODE-00	PERC-00	DS-00
	VC-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	VCE-00	AC-00	NSAE-00
	ACE-00	SSO-00	SS-00	DSCC-00	PRM-00	DRL-00	G-00
	NEAT-00	SAS-00	/001W				

-----BC43E7 031720Z /38

O 031421Z NOV 03
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3601
INFO NSC WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 003762

WHA A/S NORIEGA FROM THE AMBASSADOR,
ALSO FOR P/WHA:RMYLES AND WHA/AND: JCREAMER. NSC FOR
TSHANNON

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/03/2013
TAGS: PGOV, PREL, VE
SUBJECT: [REDACTED] DISCUSSES MICROPHONE DIPLOMACY
WITH AMBASSADOR

REF: A. CARACAS 03738
B. CARACAS 03666
C. CARACAS 03705
D. CARACAS 03424

B1

CLASSIFIED BY: AMB. CHARLES S. SHAPIRO FOR REASONS 1.5 (D)

1. (C) I MET WITH [REDACTED] NOVEMBER 2
AT 3:30 P.M. AT MY REQUEST. I CATEGORICALLY REJECTED
ACCUSATIONS OF A CIA INVOLVEMENT IN COUP PLOTTING ALLEGED BY
THREE GOV-ALIGNED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTIES (NICOLAS MADURO,
JUAN BARRETO, AND ROGER RONDON)
AT OCTOBER 22 AND OCTOBER 29 PRESS CONFERENCES (REFS A AND B)
AND ENDORSED BY PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ DURING A
NATIONALLY-TELEVISED ADDRESS OCTOBER 30 (SEPTTEL). I TOLD
[REDACTED] THE GOV WAS ADVANCING A CONTRADICTORY MESSAGE,
ALLEGING A CIA PLOT TO UNDERMINE THE GOV LESS THAN A WEEK
AFTER [REDACTED] TOLD A/S
NORIEGA THAT THE GOV WANTED TO AVOID "MICROPHONE DIPLOMACY"

[REDACTED] I PROPOSED THAT IF THE
GOV WANTED TO AVOID MICROPHONE DIPLOMACY, THIS WAS THE WRONG
WAY TO GO ABOUT IT. I EXPLAINED THAT THE CIA IS A PART OF THE
USG AND THAT USG SPOKESMEN WILL RESPOND PUBLICLY WHEN
RIDICULOUS CHARGES ARE MADE AGAINST IT.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ALAN H FLANIGAN
CLASSIFICATION: CONFIDENTIAL REASON: 1.4(D)
DECLASSIFY AFTER: 2 NOV 2023
DATE/CASE ID: 13 JUN 2007 200504156

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2. (C) FURTHERMORE, I CONTINUED, THE GOV WAS ACTING IRRESPONSIBLY BY NAMING A U.S. BUSINESS EXECUTIVE AS A CIA AGENT BECAUSE HE WAS ON THE FLIGHT MANIFEST OF PRIVATE PLANE THE DEPUTIES HAD INCORRECTLY CLAIMED WAS REGISTERED TO THE CIA (REF A). I TOLD [REDACTED] THE BUSINESS EXECUTIVE PROBABLY TRAVELS THROUGHOUT LATIN AMERICA AND THAT FALSE GOV ACCUSATIONS COULD PUT HIS LIFE AT RISK.

B1

[REDACTED] RESPONSE

3. (C) [REDACTED] SAID HE WAS NOT FULLY BRIEFED ON EVENTS THAT HAD TRANSPIRED IN HIS ABSENCE AND DECLINED TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF THE ACCUSATIONS. HOWEVER, HE RAN THROUGH THE USUAL LITANY OF STATEMENTS OF USG SPOKESMEN TO WHICH THE GOV TOOK EXCEPTION AND CONSIDERED DISRESPECTFUL (REF D).

B1

4. (C) I REITERATED THAT THE USG WILL RESPOND PUBLICLY WHEN BASELESS AND IRRESPONSIBLE ACCUSATIONS ARE PUBLICLY MADE AGAINST IT. I ADDED THAT I KNEW [REDACTED] OF THE DEPUTIES WHO MADE THE CIA ACCUSATIONS, AND CONSIDERED HIM A REASONABLE INDIVIDUAL WHO WOULD NOT MAKE ACCUSATIONS OF THIS SORT WITHOUT THE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF, AND PROBABLY INSTRUCTIONS FROM, CHAVEZ. I EMPHASIZED THAT IN MY RESPONSE TO THE MEDIA I SHOWED CONSIDERABLE RESTRAINT BY TRYING TO BRUSH OFF [REDACTED] ACCUSATIONS AND REFRAINING FROM COMMENTING ON CHAVEZ'S ENDORSEMENT OF THE ACCUSATIONS.

B1

5. (C) [REDACTED] WAS PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING BETWEEN [REDACTED] HE SAID [REDACTED] AT 3:30 A.M. OCTOBER 26 AFTER GETTING A DEBRIEF FROM [REDACTED] TO DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR CHAVEZ TO USE ON HIS WEEKLY-TELEVISED BROADCAST THE SAME DAY.

B1

6. (C) [REDACTED] REFRAIN FROM IRRESPONSIBLE PUBLIC STATEMENTS IF THEY DO NOT WANT USG SPOKESMAN RESPONDING PUBLICLY AND CRITICALLY ABOUT EVENTS IN VENEZUELA. [REDACTED] THE CONVERSATION STRESSING THAT VENEZUELA WANTS TO AVOID MICROPHONE DIPLOMACY, BUT INSISTS ON BEING RESPECTED INTERNATIONALLY.
SHAPIRO

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